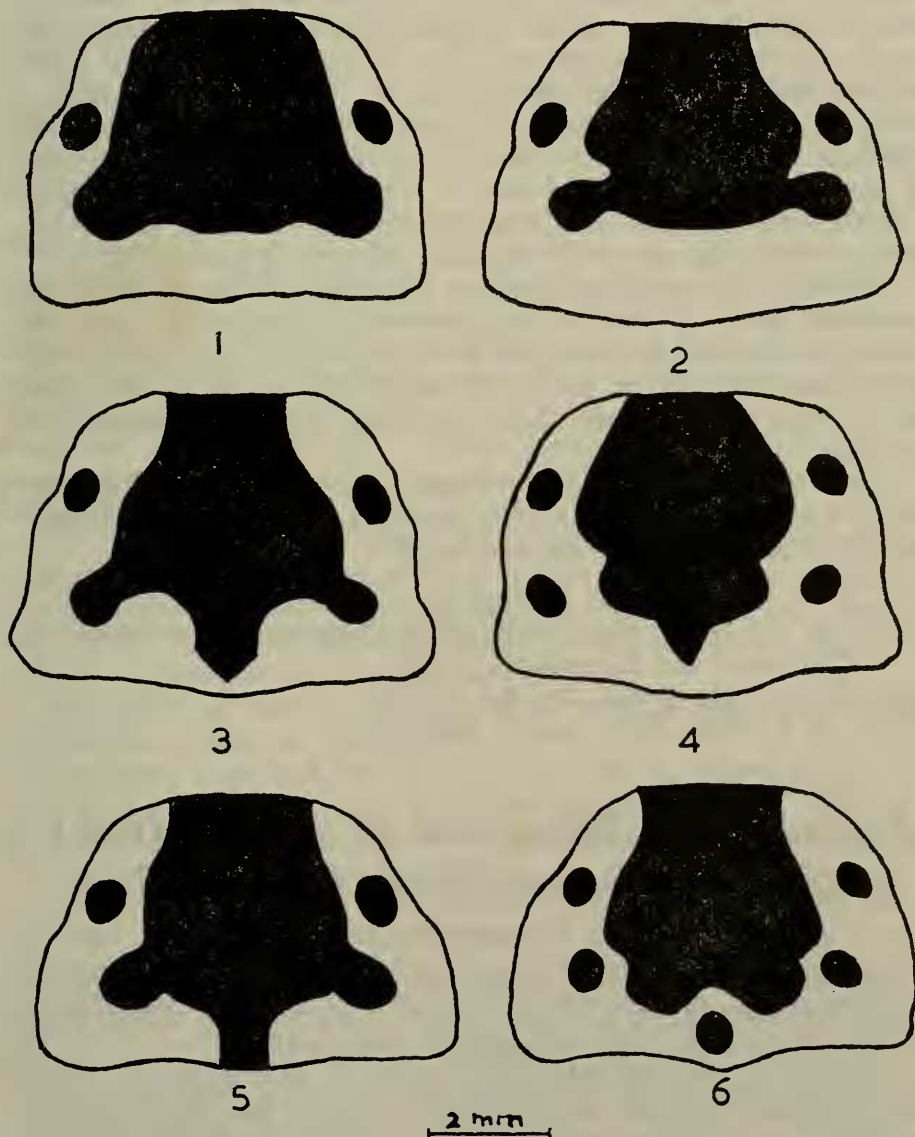


Variation in the Pronotal Spots in *Macroma melanopus* Shaum (Coleoptera : Scarabaeoidea: Cetoniidae)

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While studying a small collection of 9 examples of the Cetonine beetles, *Macroma melanopus* Shaum, from Shillong (Meghalaya), I came across an interesting instance of pronotal variation.



Figs. 1-5. Pronotum of *M. melanopus* showing variation.  
Fig. 6. Hypothetical type of pronotum.

Originally this species was described by Hope (1841) as *M. nigripennis*, but subsequently Shaum (1848) also described the same species as *M. melanopus*. Arrow (1910) has preferred to retain the latter name as valid. This species is distributed over north-east India (Khasi Hills, Jantia Hill, Manipur, Assam), Bangla Desh (Sylhet), Burma (N. Khayen Hills) and Siam.

Identity of this species can be made by its black elytra with clypeus, angular basal prolongation between the eyes, lateral and hind margins of pronotum except a black spot in the middle of lateral borders, sides of the metasternum, hind coxae and antennal club yellow (Fig. 1).

In the present series of specimens an interesting case of variation in the pronotal spots has been observed. There is evident prolongation of the middle black patch, towards the basal angles of the pronotum (Fig. 2), which ultimately tends to give rise to two small spots (Fig. 4). In another specimen a distinct downward extension of middle black patch towards the base of pronotum has been observed which joins the base of the pronotum (Figs. 3, 4 and 5). There is a strong presumption that the species with 5 spots, four lateral and one basal, may be found in nature if intensive survey is made (Fig. 6).

There is no evidence whether this type of variation in the pronotal spots is due to geographical distribution since all these specimens are collected from the same locality in Shillong. However, their genetical significance cannot be ruled out for the reason that they are from the same population sample.

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## *Argema kuhnei* Pinhey and *A. mimosae* (Bsd.) (Lepidoptera, Saturniidae) — A Comparison

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Mr Kuhne's detailed notes on *A. kuhnei* (1973, *Entomologist's Record*, 85: 27-30) reveal a number of differences between it and the better known *A. mimosae*.

There is a considerable difference in the appearance of the full grown larvae, the scoli of *mimosae* are fleshy cones, the base extending to both margins of the somite and meeting that of the opposite scoli mid-dorsally, whilst that of *kuhnei*, judging from the figure, is an erect Eiffel Tower